

THE WASHINGTON POST

Return of Pilot Tied to Halt in 'Aggression'

Reuters

LONDON, Aug. 12—Communist North Viet-Nam today hinted at the possible return of captured U.S. pilot Lt. Everett Alvarez Jr. "when Washington shows willingness to stop all acts of aggression against the Democratic republic of Viet-Nam."

(In Washington the State Department announced today the U.S. was working through the International Red Cross for the pilot's release.)

Alvarez, 26, from San Jose, Calif., was according to the United States, one of two American pilots shot down during the air strike on North Vietnamese naval bases last Wednesday.

The fate of the second pilot, Lt. Richard C. Sather, of Pomona, Calif., is unknown.

The North Vietnamese News Agency quoted a broadcast by a woman announcer of the "Voice of Vietnam" today as saying eight of the jet planes from the U.S.s constellation never returned to their base after strafing and bombing North Vietnam.

"As for their pilots," she added, "seven were killed and one survived. Everett Alvarez Jr. is now being detained in our country."

The broadcast was intended for American soldiers.

"Just ponder a while: a 26-year-old youth, Alvarez has a wife and family. Not long ago he still lived with his family in California," she said.

"Before the stealthy attack, he was in Hong Kong enjoying the pleasures of night clubs and bars. Then he was dispatched to the Gulf of Tonkin and driven to commit crimes against our country . . ."

"Alvarez is much luckier than seven of his comrades, because he still has a chance of meeting his wife again one day when Washington shows willingness to stop all acts of aggression and provocation against the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam."

The announcer continued: "It is an honor to die for a noble ideal, in the defense of one's homeland and people. But is it not damn silly, as you would call it, to die for the insane ambitions and schemes of the Washington war-maniacs? . . ."